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In 346 Housekeepers' Chat

Thursday, July 31, 1930

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Subject: "The Fall Flour Garden."

Bulletins available: "Growing Annual Flowering Plants," "Herbaceous Perennials," and "Insect Enemies of the Flower Garden."

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"What a wonderful world this would be if there weren't any insects to bother our crops," remarked W.R.B., the other morning. I found the Garden Advisor dusting a row of nasturtiums in this flower garden. The nasturtiums, he said, had become infested with a little black plant louse that is especially troublesome at this time of the year, on nasturtiums, chrysanthemums, and several other of the garden plants.

W.R.B. was applying what he called 2 per cent nicotine dust. "I gave up growing nasturtiums a few years ago," he explained, "on account of these miserable insects, but recently I have found that I can control them with the nicotine dust, provided I begin in time, and before the damage is really done."

The dusting finished, W.R.B. returned his can of nicotine dust and cheesecloth dust bag to a shelf in his garage, and a moment later, we were seated on the wheelbarrow, discussing the essentials of an attractive fall flower garden. From where we were sitting we could see the borders of petunias, sweet alyssum, scarlet sage, hardy phlox, verbenas, and snap dragons which made a riot of color and fragrance. In the background were cannas, zinnias, cosmos, dahlias and old fashioned hollyhocks.

It seemed to me that no more flowers were needed in this garden, but W.R.B. said he intended to plant a lot of things for late blooming, and some that would go through the winter and bloom next spring.

I wanted to know more about flowers that could be grown late in the season, flowers that are suitable for cutting, and for decorating the house. The garden advisor recommended aster, snap dragons, cosmos, marigolds, nasturtiums, gladiolus, dahlias, and roses. Several of these can be grown from seed sown late in the season, while others require earlier planting, but it is a good idea to have them in mind for next year. The old-fashioned strawflower or everlasting flower is very pretty in the fall garden. If you cut the flowers before they are fully opened, and dry them carefully in the house, they will last throughout the winter.

A friend of mine has made quite a success of growing everlasting flowers. She makes them into small bunches and sells them to the florists. They are used in making formal designs and for miniature flower baskets.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE
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Cosmos is one of the most satisfactory and showy of the fall blooming flowers. The easiest way to grow cosmos is to sow the seeds where you want the plants to stand, then thin them so that each plant will have about 4 square feet of ground space for its development, that is, the plants should stand about 2 feet apart, in each direction.

Dahlias are especially attractive for their outdoor effect, and they are also used quite extensively for inside decoration, especially for large bouquets and baskets.

Nasturtiums are pretty, and easy to grow, except for the control of the plant louse that I have mentioned, and it can be controlled by dusting with the nicotine dust.

Chrysanthemums are one of our finest late fall blooming flowers, and while it is too late to plant chrysanthemums now for this season's blooming, arrangements should be made to get the plants from someone who has them to spare late next fall, or in the early spring, and have them growing in your garden another year.

If there are any bare spots in your flower borders, now is the time to put in a few seeds of nasturtiums, petunias, or some other quick growing flower to fill up the spaces.

It will soon be time to plant pansy seed for fall and early spring blooming. Select a protected corner, or a section of the coldframe, sift some well prepared loamy soil into the space, sow the pansy seed rather thinly, scatter about one-fourth of an inch of loose sifted soil over it, sprinkle the bed with water, and partially shade it until the plants get well started. Of course, the seed bed must not dry out, but on the other hand, it does not want to be kept too wet.

Seed of the old-fashioned hollyhocks may still be sown to make plants for next year's blooming, however, it is a little late for starting hollyhocks in the northern part of the country.

"What do you do to make your roses bloom so nicely?" I asked the Garden Adviser.

"Prune them, fertilize them, cultivate them, and water them," he replied.

"First of all, I give them a good pruning after each crop of blossoms, then you will note that they are heavily mulched with compost. Early in the season, I gave them a top dressing of bone meal. I keep them free from weeds and water them about once a week, and within a day or two after watering them, I take the hoe or rake and gently loosen the surface soil about them."

"A lady asked me the other day," he continued, "About Radiance roses -- if they are a good kind to plant, and I told her that in sections where they do not winterkill, they are one of the finest roses that can be grown, both the pink or true Radiance, and the red Radiance. I think," he continued, "that they are the most satisfactory of all the varieties of perpetual blooming roses that I have in my garden. My roses are among the first flowers in my garden to bloom in the spring and the last in the fall,

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and if I had my choice of but one kind of flower to grow in my garden, that choice would be roses."

"What is that tall pink and white flower on the other side of the rose bed?" I asked W.R.B.

"That," he said, "is hardy phlox and one of the most satisfactory flowers that you can plant in a border. You can get so many varieties of it and in a wide range of colors. It is hardy and will remain in the ground from one year to another. The main point is to keep it free from weeds, fairly well fertilized, and as fast as it blossoms to cut off the old flowers or seed pods so that it will not ripen seeds. By this method the plants will go right on blooming almost throughout the season. The best way to get a start is to buy the hardy phlox plants early in the spring, and set them where they are to remain permanently. It is a good plan to spade the ground where the phlox are to be planted quite deeply, and work plenty of compost and bone meal into the soil.

"I plan to increase my collection of hardy phlox and to plant them in a mixed border with such hardy perennials as foxglove, delphinium, canterbury bells, and about half a dozen more of the flowers that can be depended upon in this part of the country. First, I am going to dig up the space and work plenty of compost and bone meal into the soil to a depth of 12 or 14 inches. That will be the foundation for my permanent perennial flower border. The work of preparing the soil will be done this fall and a few of the plants moved into it. Next spring, I will complete the planting of the border, and by this time next year I hope to have something really worth while to show you."

I wish that you could see W.R.B.'s flower garden from where we sat on the wheelbarrow as we talked. It isn't one of those formal fancy gardens, but just a charming, old-fashioned flower garden that everybody admires. I am sure that all of us have learned something from what he has told us today about the fall flower garden. If you are interested in fall flowers, I suggest that you send for three bulletins: "Growing Annual Flowering Plants," "Herbaceous Perennials," and "Insect Enemies of the Flower Garden."

Tomorrow: "A Peck of Pickled Peppers."

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Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the above matter.

I am sorry to hear that you are having trouble with your machine. I have been told that the machine is not working properly. I will try to get it fixed as soon as possible. I will let you know when it is ready.

I am sorry that I cannot be of more help to you. I will try to get the machine fixed as soon as possible. I will let you know when it is ready.

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